

of gas and an empty bladder, retrieving that Stetson, the dry run, the Virgil Conn story, playing the harmonica and the piano, the pump organ.

There were the annual episodes of serving Venison Chili to the entire House of Representatives every Texas Independence Day, or feeding catfish from the Inks Lake Fish Hatchery to the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee.

And stories about parades! Parades with and without squeaky pickles, cars that worked, and cars that did not. Once, there was a car with a stick shift that Ms. Pickle had to drive.

Always a convertible so he could be seen and so he could throw his pickles. Parades where he was the Grand Marshall and the first car in the parade, and the one where he followed the horses, after his third parade of the day.

At the end of the parade route—Mr. Pickle would stop the car, get out and walk both sides of the route personally shaking every hand and handing out more squeaky pickles.

Most of all he was fun—he was fun to be with.

Our stories are his lasting legacy to us— which is fitting because he was the master storyteller. He knew how to use humor to communicate his message. He would make people laugh, just before he would make them think about a serious issue facing our Nation or our community.

Staffers who took Mr. Pickle to an event were asked two questions just as we arrived: (1) “what is my key message”, and (2) “tell me something funny to say.” We had the old regulars—the Claude Pepper story, the Round Rock story, Dollars for Democrats, but not a Nickel for Pickle story. Many times he would turn to Mrs. Pickle for some of his best material.

We worked hard but his sense of humor made the job enjoyable. But, no one worked harder than he did.

He would start the week with a 6:20 a.m. flight to Washington on Monday mornings. He would put in 15 hour days in Committee hearings, holding meetings with people from the District or from associations and businesses, casting countless votes on the floor of the House, working the phones, signing the mail, reviewing legislation, and then attending 2-4 receptions before going home to Ms. Beryl.

He would keep that schedule everyday until Friday about 12:00 noon when he would fly back to Austin at 5:00 p.m. We would go immediately to the office where he would sign all the mail that had been prepared by the District staff that week. He signed virtually every piece of mail that went out of his Office. This is how he kept up with what was happening to his constituents.

We would often sign the mail on Friday and see one of those constituents at an event that weekend. He would tell them how their case was going, or that we had just sent off the letter. That made an impression on people—they knew that he cared.

He would go to Church on Sunday and we would have some event that evening before I had to get him back to the Airport on Monday mornings. No matter how tired I would get, spending the weekend with Mr. Pickle would re-energize you. His love of public service and his energy was contagious.

He campaigned even harder! He was relentless. On weekends, we would have to have three shifts of staff just to keep up!

So many times people would say . . . he is the only Democrat I ever voted for . . . or, I don't always agree with him, but I always voted for him. He wanted every vote. He earned every vote.

Just one example: a person came to him and asked for help in finding a job—just one

of thousands who asked for help. Mr. Pickle sent out the man's resume a number of times who always seemed to be a finalist for the job, but without success. After several months of writing letters and requesting interviews, I asked Mr. Pickle one day while I was driving him home if he had not done enough and why he was trying so hard to help this man?

He looked at me and said simply, “Paul, the man asked me for help. Is there any other reason that I need to try and help him?” He loved helping people.

Mr. Pickle represented the people of Central Texas to the Federal government, but he was also a representative of the Federal government to the people of Central Texas. He loved welcoming people from the District to Washington. No one gave a tour of the Capital like a Jake Pickle tour of the Capital. He took people in places where you just are not supposed to go. He made the Capital come alive with its history.

He had a vision and a love for Central Texas that no one could match. He was our strongest lobbyist and he lobbied for so many things in addition to UT and SEMATECH. Boggy Creek, a Wildlife Refuge, airports (big ones and small ones), the right of way for MoKan. He worked on behalf of the Austin Housing Authority, the Boy Scouts, Veterans Outpatient Clinic, IRS Service Center, the LCRA, Bergstrom Air Force Base, Flood Control on the Upper San Marcos Watershed, the Visitors Center at the LBJ National Park, the Gary Job Corps, and literally a thousand other things for Central Texans.

Yes, Mr. Pickle worked hard for Central Texas, but he was one of Washington's most respected members of Congress. He believed in having personal relationships with other members of Congress . . . on both sides of the aisle. This is evident by those in attendance today.

Integrity, Honesty, Loyalty, Courage, Determination, Tenacity—these are the qualities that he relied upon to become a trusted legislator. These are the qualities that defined Jake Pickle.

Of all of the legislative work and votes over 31 years, he took the greatest pride in one of his first: the Civil Rights Act. He would get tears in his eyes every time he told the story when President Johnson called him the night the Civil Rights Act passed. The President demanded that Mr. Pickle call him no matter what time of night so he could tell him how proud he was of his vote.

He was also proud of his work as Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittees of Social Security and Oversight. His most important legislative accomplishment was in maintaining solvency of the Social Security system in 1983. He worked closely with Senator Bob Dole on legislation that represented a bi-partisan approach to the problem. He told me many times that providing a sense of security to tens of millions of Americans gave him a deep sense of pride and meaning.

Third, was his work in the area of pensions and pension reform. He could see problems in the system long before they became the crisis they are today. In fact, if not for some of the reforms he put into place, the crisis would be much greater today. He would say pensions are not a very newsworthy subject, but it was damned important to families counting on them.

The J. J. Pickle formula for success in government was really very simple: a dedication to public service plus a love of helping people, multiplied by a deep faith in our system of government.

He placed the highest priority on constituent service because he thought the highest calling of government was to help people with their problems. He was committed to being responsive and accessible.

Mr. Pickle often referred to the Congressional Office as “the big buffer” between the individual and “big government.” It was the place where any citizen, rich or poor, democrat or republican, could come for help when there was nowhere else to turn.

Finally, Mr. Pickle had a truly unique ability to balance a short-term immediate focus with his long-term vision. He taught us that the best public policy always made the best politics.

Social Security legislation was to be based upon solvency of the system, pension policy based on protecting the pension holders not big business, civil rights legislation based on justice and equal protection.

Locally, his long-term vision included the need for inter-modal transportation systems, two runways at Bergstrom Airport, flood control systems, public power, solar energy, habitat for endangered species and protection of water quality, a first class research facility at UT's Balcones Research Center that bears his name.

There is a phrase he used in some of his later speeches, “In the Shadows of Greatness”. Referring to the portion of MoPac north of U.S. Hwy 183 that runs between MCC and the J.J. Pickle Research Campus—he talked about how people would drive through that corridor not realizing that they were actually traveling “in the shadows of greatness” because of the world class research being conducted in the buildings they were passing by.

Those of us on the Pickle staff understand a different meaning for this phrase. We worked in the Shadows of Greatness every day we were with him. He had an impact on this world and particularly on this community that is—as he predicted—already being forgotten by most.

But, his fingerprints are everywhere. His legacy of public service, of loyalty to his University, of his commitment to good and responsive government has been recognized through the naming of the Federal Building, the Research Center, the Elementary School, the Pickle Runway at Bergstrom Airport, and even a peach orchard on Town Lake.

So, on behalf of your eternal staff . . . we will never forget what you taught us. We will always celebrate and treasure our time with you. My prayer is that you are already—cheating at dominoes with all of your friends—friends who have been waiting so long for you. I am confident that the quality of life in heaven just got better.

God Bless You, Great Leader, for your service, for your legacy, for giving us the opportunity work in your great shadow!

We had a great ride!!

MR. JOHN L. PROCOPE, PUBLISHER, ENTREPRENEUR, AND EXEMPLAR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding newspaper publisher and business entrepreneur who pursued a successful career in business while remaining rooted in the community and opening many doors of opportunity for others. Mr. John L. Procope was an important voice in Harlem politics, society, and education and his influence and impact was felt beyond his home community in the City of New York and the nation. He passed away on July 15, 2005.

In 1971, John and a group of five co-owners bought the Amsterdam News in Harlem and

kept an important black newspaper alive and running in a community that needed and wanted to be kept abreast of events in Black America. Through his work as the paper's publisher, he ensured that the community was aware of issues of importance to them and knowledgeable on the events of the day.

Through his ownership of the Amsterdam News, he worked to inform, educate, and activate a community which had suffered through difficult times and knew that to improve their stake in society they would have to be diligent on the issues. He did not stray from controversial topics or fail to express his opinions in the best interest of his community.

Following the riots in reaction to the 1977 blackout in New York, John was outraged by the reaction of the black community and readily expressed his criticism of young alienated Blacks and the lack of black leadership in properly addressing the situation and providing hope for future generations. John would later head up the Emergency Aid Commission to provide grants to local businesses harmed by the looting that ensued from the blackout. He impressed upon the community and its political and social leadership the importance of building up and supporting local businesses, rather than tearing them down and destroying their economic ability.

John Procope saw the value of investing in local businesses in our communities. He encouraged entrepreneurs to not only provide jobs to young people and the poor, but to provide opportunities to develop their skills and nurture their talents within the community. John and Ernesta, his wife, were strong advocates of the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements plan in 1968 and have continued to work in highly visible ways to address critical issues and to support humanitarian and cultural causes within the community.

Though John passed away at the age of 82, he led a full and rewarding life. He championed the good causes, fought the right fights, and demanded the most of himself and others. I knew him as an exceptional individual and a trusted friend. The attached obituary from the New York Times (July 18, 2005) highlights the life story and accomplishments of Mr. Procope.

JOHN L. PROCOPE, 82, PUBLISHER OF BLACK NEWSPAPER IN HARLEM, DIES

JULY 18, 2005.—John L. Procope, an entrepreneur and former publisher of The New York Amsterdam News, died on Friday. He was 82 and lived in Queens.

The cause was complications from pneumonia, according to E. G. Bowman Co., where he had served as chairman.

Mr. Procope, a graduate of Morgan State University, was a marketing and advertising executive at several companies before he joined a consortium that bought The Amsterdam News, a black newspaper based in Harlem, in 1971. He was one of six co-owners of the newspaper when he succeeded Clarence B. Jones as publisher in 1974.

After the 1977 blackout and the resultant looting, Mr. Procope broke the traditional restraint of vocal criticism against other prominent blacks.

He published a blistering front-page editorial that contended that there was a "massive vacuum of leadership in the black communities across the city."

The editorial said that since black leaders "hadn't exercised real leadership prior to the blackout, there was no established communication with our young people to use as a base for communication when the looters began."

He was appointed chairman of the seven-member Emergency Aid Commission, which disbursed about \$3 million in grants to businesses hurt by the looting.

In the late 1970's, two co-owners of The Amsterdam News tried to remove Mr. Procope as publisher, saying that business contracts his wife, Ernesta G. Procope, had with the city resulted in a conflict of interest—a contention the Procoptes denied.

Mr. Procope left the newspaper in 1982 to focus on E. G. Bowman, an insurance company that had been founded by his wife that was one of the first major African-American-owned businesses on Wall Street. The company's client list started with underserved Brooklyn homeowners but grew to include Fortune 500 companies.

Mr. Procope and his wife were a driving force behind the creation of the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements plan in 1968 to help make insurance available to all residents of New York State. He and his wife were also highly visible in political and philanthropic circles.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sisters, Dr. Jean Martin of Bloomfield, Conn.; and Jonelle Terrell of Manhattan.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPECIAL OLYMPICS ON 37TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Special Olympics on the celebration of their 37th anniversary. When the Special Olympics was founded in 1968, individuals with developmental disabilities were all too often separated from their families, as well as segregated from their communities. My aunt, Eunice Shriver, was able to see the potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities through her sister, and my Aunt, Rosemary. She was confident in her, and other disabled individuals', ability to participate in a meaningful way in their communities. By using sport as a vehicle and stage for demonstrating the dignity and capability of people with intellectual disabilities, Mrs. Shriver recognized the impact not only on the athletes themselves, but on the nation, as well. When the first International Special Olympic Games were held in 1968, 1,000 athletes participated from 26 states and Canada. Today, the Special Olympics serves more than 1.73 million athletes in 150 countries around the world.

The Special Olympics goes far beyond serving the athletic needs of their participants, and has recently developed an initiative to provide much needed medical health services titled "Healthy Athletes." Special Olympics "Healthy Athletes" improves access and health care for athletes at event-based health screenings, as well as makes referrals to local health practitioners when necessary. The data collected during these screenings also provides valuable information on the specific health needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities. In fact, data from the 2003 Summer games showed that 30 percent of all athletes reported never having an eye exam and also referred 23 percent of athletes for follow-up by a physical therapist.

The benefit of the Special Olympics to athletes, families, volunteers, and coaches cannot

be adequately measured by statistics and numbers, but can be best represented by the recognition of the potential of individuals with intellectual disabilities by our society. Congratulations to the Special Olympics on 37 years of extraordinary service.

THE 31ST BLACK ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 31st Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus. First, I would like to acknowledge Representative BILIRAKIS and Representative MALONEY for their efforts in bringing this issue to Congress.

Today, as you well know marks the Anniversary of a day 31 years ago when the people of Cyprus's lives changed. In 1974, Turkish forces invaded Northern Cyprus and seized control of more than one-third of the Island. Cyprus has for the past 31 years been divided by a 113 mile barbed wire fence that runs across the island. Therefore, Greek Cypriotes are prohibited from visiting the towns and communities where their families have lived for generations. In 1983, illegal occupiers of the island declared the territory to be an independent state and called it the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus," a country which today remains shunned by the International Community and is not recognized by anyone besides Turkey. Currently there are over 35,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed and it continues to be one of the most militarized areas in the world.

I commend the United States Government, the European Union and the United Nations for encouraging a solution to the problem plaguing Cyprus. I sincerely hope that by taking a stance today, we can promote a renewed effort for direct negotiations and help the Greek Cypriotes get back what is rightfully theirs.

I would like to express my support of the Greek Cypriotes who have been disenfranchised for generations and continue to be mistreated today.

HONORING THE PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the contributions of a very special church in Louisiana's 7th Congressional District.

The Pleasant Green Baptist Church has been an important part of the Sulphur community and on July 31, 2005, Pleasant Green will be celebrating its 100th anniversary.

The church's current leader, Rev. James Gatewood, is a dedicated servant. His success and the church's strong presence are directly attributable to the faith, generosity, and contributions of the congregation. The church